



The Christ Church History and Archives committee has been formed to collect, document and preserve the material and social history of the Parish and to encourage participation and involvement of all parishioners.

Building History 1912-2018

In 1911, 40 families petitioned the bishop to erect Christ Church, on land donated by developer Fred Lowes. A year later, architects, Lang and Major, were commissioned to prepare conceptual drawings. Successive stages of construction remained faithful to this vision, until it was realized in 1954.

It was decided to start the church as a basement (cost \$6,080.00) with a capacity of 160. Opening Jan 1913, it occupied the full width of the current Church, but was limited in length to the part underneath the future chancel. Another basement section was added the next year. The challenges of the First World War meant that the building would remain a basement until 1921.

In that year, the superstructure was added at a cost of \$18,000.00. It had a Nave with 2 Side Aisles, a Ladies' Chapel and a Vestry. The Altar was set the East wall and the Choir sat on both side of the Sanctuary Aisle., near the Organ. There was a single Bell on the roof and a 30-foot bridge connected the Church with 8th St. The Church had a certain desolate appearance. with the low ceiling, pews only in the central aisles up to 1930. The first Stained-Glass Window was added in 1933.

After WWII, the Parish grew to over 1000 families and, in 1947, the Church Basement was completed with an extension to 8th St. 1954, saw a major enlargement of the Church, which completed the 1912 vision for the Worship Space. It was extended to 8th St and the roof over the central part was raised to its present height of 40 feet. The Rose window in the East wall, a bell tower with a peel of English Bells, were added. A south Administrative Wing was completed in 1962. Cumulative costs to date, from 1912, were about \$231,000. The architect for Christ Church between 1947 and 1962, was J. A. Cawston, whose life is discussed overleaf.

By the late 90's the non-worship spaces needed upgrading. After 10 years of study, construction for the "Renewing the Welcome" project, happened between 2006 and 2008 and cost over \$6 million. It provided an Elevator, larger Crump Room, Administrative Offices, spacious Sunday School, Choir Spaces, Storage Area, the Loggia, additional Washrooms and two state-of-the art Kitchens. This project made the Church fully handicapped-accessible.

in 2010, the attractive Baptismal entrance was donated and, in 2015, the 'Trinity of Improvements', renovated the Narthex and Parish Hall and installed a comprehensive sound system.

These mini stories will appear on a regular basis. If parishioners would like a longer article on this week's subject, please email (jhmendham@telus.net).

Parishioners are encouraged to contact John Mendham, or other committee members, if they have historical information or material they would like to share.



Basement church 1913.
Unpaved 34th Ave on right



1st superstructure, pictured between 1921 and 1947.

Jack Cawston, parishioner and our architect in the mid-20th Century.

John Alexander Cawston, was a prominent Calgary and Alberta architect. Born in Calgary, Mr. Cawston graduated from the University of Alberta in 1935. Following his marriage to Marjorie in 1940, he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1941 to 1945. In 1951, he established his own firm, J. A. Cawston and Associates. He was a life-long member of Christ Church as, his father, WA Cawston, who built the second stage of the original basement church, was before him. He headed the extension of the church basement in 1947, the major church alterations in 1954, and designed the South wing, completed in 1962. During his time at CC, he became intimately aware of the history of the building and latterly did the ink drawings of its stages of development, which can be seen in our display case.

He died in 1966 and his funeral was at CC, with the new Rector, Rev David Tatchell, officiating. A stained-glass window, the Bethany window (#1), was erected in his memory on the south side, at the West end of the church.

Monthly history article #1. Published Feb.15, 2019.

RECTORS:

Horne	1913 – 1929	Tatchell	1966 - 1980	Tucker	2005 - 15
Luxton	1930 – 1933	Curtis	1980 – 1983	Belcher	2015 - 16
Kemp	1933 – 1944	O'Driscoll	1984 – 1992	Pickett	2016
Crump	1944- 1960	Boyles	1992 - 1993		
Dowker	1960-1966	Pike	1993 - 2003		